

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR NATO

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND NATO: WASHINGTON PRESS BACK-
GROUNDERS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY SEEN ASSOCIATED PRESS
STORY OF DECEMBER 8 OUT OF WASHINGTON BY ARTHUR L.
GAVSHON ON FRANCE'S RELATIONSHIP TO NATO. STORY
QUOTES UNNAMED SENIOR US OFFICIALS WHO SAY THAT FRANCE
MAY BE MOVING TOWARD REINTEGRATION OF NATO MILITARY
STRUCTURE. MECHANISM FOR THIS ALLEGED REINTEGRATION
IS FRANCE'S INCREASING COOPERATION ON STANDARDIZATION
IN THE IEPG. SINCE FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, UK AND THE
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USA ARE THE MAJOR USERS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE

ALLIANCE, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, MANAGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION BY THESE LEADING CONSUMERS COULD RESULT IN ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUR-POWER DIRECTORATE ORIGINALLY SOUGHT BY DEGAULLE BUT REJECTED BY THE AMERICANS IN THE 1960'S.

2. SURPRISINGLY, STORY WAS PICKED UP BY ONLY ONE PARISIAN NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 9, THE SMALL-CIRCULATION QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS. THE QUOTIDIEN RAN THE STORY ON AN INSIDE PAGE, BUT IN A FRONT-PAGE BOX CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CONTROVERSY GENERATED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE GENERAL MERY ARTICLE, AND SUBSEQUENT GOF DENIALS THAT POLICY TOWARD NATO MILITARY INTEGRATION HAD CHANGED UNDER GISCARD. QUOTIDIEN'S VIEW IS THAT IF AMERICANS ARE EXPRESSING PUBLIC SATISFACTION WITH FRANCE'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO THEN SOMETHING MUST HAVE CHANGED.

3. COMMENT: QUOTIDIEN HAS SMALL CIRCULATION, BUT DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES. STORY MAY THEREFORE BE PICKED UP BY WEEKLIES APPEARING NEXT MONDAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, STORIES ABOUT GISCARD SLIDING TOWARD ATLANTICISM HAVE BEEN RUN SO OFTEN THAT NOVELTY HAS LONG WORN OFF. ONLY NEW ELEMENT IN AP STORY IS SOURCING TO SENIOR US OFFICIALS. FRANKLY, EMBASSY SEES NO ADVANTAGE TO US INTERESTS IN FRANCE IN THIS TYPE OF PRESS BACKGROUNDING BECAUSE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED GOF'S MARGIN OF MANEUVER VIS-A-VIS GAULLISTS.
RUSH

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